

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19 /138 W
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R 201013 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8890
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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FOL MSG SENT SAIGON FM CAN THO MARCH 19 AND RPTD FOR YOUR INFO
QTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAN THO 0061

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, CA, VS

SUBJECT: SHARP VISIT TO CAN THO MARCH 17

1. SUMMARY: NO DEFINITE SIGNS OF CANADA'S INTENTIONS REGARDING
CONTINUED ICCS PARTICIPATION WERE APPARENT AFTER THE SHARP VISIT
TO MRIV. ALL INDICATIONS ARE, HOWEVER, THAT CANADA WILL PROBABLY
NOT MAKE A QUICK DECISION TO PULL OUT OF THE ICCS. A LIKELY
SOLUTION WOULD BE TO ANNOUNCE ANOTHER REVIEW AFTER 60 OR 90
DAYS. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO CANADA'S REGION VII CHIEF OF DELEGATION,
CANADA'S DECISION TO REMAIN OR STAY WITH THE ICCS IN VIET NAM
WILL BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF CANADA'S DOMESTIC POLITICS. ANY
DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE ABLE TO BEAR THE CLOSE SCRUTINY OF THE
CANADIAN PRESS, PARLIAMENT AND ELECTORATE. ONE OF THE REASONS
MR. SHARP BROUGHT ALONG SUCH A LARGE PRESS PARTY WAS TO AVOID
CHARGES THAT THE TRIP WAS MERELY A PRO FORMA GESTURE TO JUSTIFY
A DECISION ALREADY MADE. IT WAS A GENUINE FACT-FINDING VISIT

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TO GET FIRST HAND INFORMATION ON HOW THE ICCS IS FUNCTIONING
SO THAT A RATIONAL AND POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE DECISION ON
CANADA'S ICCS ROLE CAN BE MADE.

3. IN ADDITION TO DOMESTIC PRESSURES CANADA RECOGNIZES IMPORTANT
FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS IN THE ICCS QUESTION.

CANADA

DOES NOT WANT TO SERIOUSLY IMPAIR HER RELATIONS WITH THE
US WHICH ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT ECONOMICALLY. BUT, NEITHER DOES
SHE WANT TO BE TAKEN FOR AN AMERICAN " STOOGE". THIS LATTER
CONCERN ARGUES FOR CONTINUED CANADIAN ICCS PRESENCE AT LEAST
FOR A DECENT PERIOD BEYOND US TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND PRISONER
RELEASES LEST CANADA BE CHARGED WITH JOINING THE ICCS JUST TO
PERMIT THE US TO ACHIEVE THESE TWO OBJECTIVES. CHINA HAS ALSO
URGED CANADA TO REMAIN ON THE ICCS. THE CHINESE FEEL THAT
NEITHER POLAND NOR HUNGARY WILL CONSIDER CHINESE INTERESTS
IN ICCS COUNCILS. THE INDONESIANS, OF COURSE, ARE NO ALLIES
OF THE CHINESE.

4. CANADA'S PIVOTAL ROLE ON THE ICCS WAS MADE CLEAR TO THE
SHARP PARTY AND NDP COALITION MEMBERS SEEMED TO ABSORB THIS
POINT. (THE NDP DEPUTY AND SC SENATOR SEEMED TO REACT
FAVORABLY AND SYMPATHETICALLY THROUGHOUT THE VISIT TO THE
ICCS BRIEFINGS). CANADA CANNOT AFFORD, EITHER DOMESTICALLY
OR INTERNATIONALLY, TO APPEAR TO HAVE CAUSED THE COLLAPSE OF
A VIABLE PEACE- KEEPING BODY BY PREMATURELY ABANDONING THE ICCS.
BASED ON WHAT IT OBSERVED IN THE DELTA, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT
THE SHARP MISSION WILL URGE THAT CANADA GIVE THE ICCS A FEW
MORE MONTHS TO PROVE ITS WORTH BEFORE MAKING ANY DECISION
TO WITHDRAW.

WISNER

BUNQUOTEBUNKER

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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